TEMPLE UNIVERSITY
COLLEGE OF LIBERAL ARTS
PHILADELPHIA, PENNSYLVANIA 19122

DEPARTMENT OF ENGLISH

25 Elm Ridge Road
Pennington, New Jersey 08534
November 11, 1979

Dear Harold,

I hope this letter finds you in good health, holding your own and the condition well under control. Work is all: remember Marlow in Conrad's "Heart of Darkness," to the effect of, perhaps you wonder why I too didn't join the powers of darkness, why they didn't make me one of their own, well, I had work to do. In his case: fishing rivets from the bottom of the Congo River and getting his little ship afloat. We too are trying to keep afloat. For God's sake, don't make any special effort to see Apocalypse Now which in my view does neither Vietnam nor Conrad much credit.

I have filed my requests to the powers that be.

Now I suppose it's time to appeal because they've been silent: so, advice is required, please, please, please.

I have a letter stamped October 4, 1979 from Kathleen Siljegovic, Information and Privacy Staff, Foreign Affairs Document and Reference Center of the State Department acknowledging ~~requiest of~~ my request for the Bruce diaries. It's a form letter. With a number: FOIA request #7902932.

I have a similar letter from the Dept. of Justice and FBI dated October 30, Re: Audrey Currier et al. They are searching. I'm sure you know the letter.

I have a letter stamped Oct. 26 re: information concerning David Bruce. I had asked for his personnel file. (Dept. of State).

I have a letter from Justice re: David K. E. Bruce, stamped Oct. 26, again the form letter "A search of the indices to our records will be made..."

In the hierarchy of importance, what I would like most is Justice's file on the Curriers and their activities in the Civil Rights movement and the circumstances of their death. And of course the Bruce diaries.

So: what do I do next? Have I done the right thing?

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As you can gather, the C.I.A. has not replied at all, although I wrote to them on October 18th, in separate letters, for both Bruce and Currier materials.

Note that I did not ask the F.B.I. for Alexandra Bruce materials at all, keeping in mind that this is an open case. I thought it would be futile. What do you think? Michaelides has decided not to come back to Virginia willingly to stand trial, but the case remains open and there is still a flurry of talk about taking the matter to Greece.

Perhaps the appeal letter about the Diaries should be composed very specifically? Equally the letter about the Curriers?

You have been so kind and helpful, I hate to keep bothering you like a baby. I'm working all avenues now, that is, David Bruce, the Curriers and Alexandra, all part of my story and the task is enormous, but fun, heartening, although sometimes people won't talk.

Do write and keep in touch with all your news, the new book, the progress of the research and all. What do you think of the xeroxed pages the ACLU puts out on Freedom of Information? I wouldn't dream of following it since I'm sure you've long ago exposed its ineffectuality. I haven't been to Washington all this time, doing the Connecticut, New York, Brooklyn, part of the story, and I've even lined up a ninterview in NY with Paul Mellon (brother-in-law of David K. E. Bruce and uncle of Audrey Bruce Currier) for Nov. 27th. So maybe I'm not doing so badly!

By the way, David Surtees Bruce (son of David K. E.) tells me news will break in a few weeks, but he won't tell me what so if you see any Bruce tidbits in the Washington Star or Post, do let me know.

Meanwhile: happy Thanksgiving (David told me he will shoot a wild turkey and pour Jack Daniels down its throat for a few days, his recipe, god help it). Write soon.

Warmest regards,

Jean